

# **WV SERC Meeting**

January 21, 2000

10:00 a.m.

John Pack began the meeting at 11:08 a.m. for those in attendance see attached roster. The minutes of November 11, 1999 were reviewed. Mr. Pack asked for corrections/deletions or additions. Roy McCallister moved to approve the minutes, Jim Riggs seconded. Motion passed with corrections.

HMEP Grants - Mr. Pack said one county has requested a review of their 2000 HMEP Grant project. Their grant was denied, the grant application was received after the deadline. Mr. Pack said he has made arrangements to speak with the county commissioner, listen to her extenuating circumstances and review her objections to their denial. Mr. Pack will then report to the SERC on the situation. Mr. Pack said all planning funds for the 1999 grant year were expended, \$10,000-12,000 in training 1999 funds will be returned to USDOT. Mr. Pack said we need to encourage 1<sup>st</sup> responders, EMS and law enforcement personnel to take advantage of training opportunities. Jim Cox said once the certification process has been approved thru State Police channels a significant number of law enforcement personnel can be trained. Mr. Pack said he will be speaking at a County Commissioners Association meeting in the near future and is trying to obtain an invitation to speak at the Sheriff=s Association meeting. Roy McCallister asked if Hazmat training will be offered for in-service personnel. JR Bias (K/P EPC) has been working with law enforcement personnel to obtain the appropriate certification of classes and instructors. Once everything has been approved through appropriate channels classes will begin at the academy. Mr. Pack also said Gilmer County is very appreciative they received a HMEP grant this year, they are making significant progress in their county and wanted the SERC to know they appreciate their efforts as well. 8 counties have requested initial payments on their 2000 HMEP grants, 5 have not requested initial payments to date. Monongalia County is making very good progress on their project, they have asked for their 2<sup>nd</sup> payment of funds. The 2001 HMEP Administrative Packages are due to go out in March, Mr. Pack suggested they be sent in February to give LEPC=s additional time to prepare grant applications. The deadline for 2001 HMEP grant applications to be received back to the SERC is June 15, 2000. Loretta Bitner said Congress has not re-appropriated funding for 2001 but we should assume everything is status quo.

SERC Grants - 22 LEPC=s requested SERC Grants in 1999 of those 11 have completed their projects and received all of their funding. 11 LEPC=s have not requested more than the initial request for payment. Those LEPC=s have until 1 March 2000 to complete their funding requests or the funds revert to the general fund. Notices were previously sent but

a final notice informing LEPC=s they are in danger of losing their remaining funds will be sent shortly. It was noted that LEPC=s are not taking advantage of their funding opportunities. Counties that are eligible for grants are not applying for funds, the grant process is not long or involved, there are only 2 pages of information to fill out and return to the SERC with appropriate documentation. Mr. Pack said he and Dave Wheatcraft have been actively speaking to LEPC=s, going to meetings and talking to County Commissions on their obligations and opportunities. The SERC funds for 1999 were approximately 22-23,000 less than 1998 due to higher thresholds for gasoline stations. This also resulted in approximately 800 fewer facilities reporting to the SERC, 100 additional oil wells were reported but that was not enough to cover the loss in gasoline revenues. Mr. Pack said fire departments will need to work with WVDEP on underground storage tanks since they will no longer receive Tier Two forms.

Old Business - Mr. Pack said the FEMA manuals for 911 centers and fire departments throughout the state were not ordered. He apologized for the delay and said Jim Cox will get it done before the next meeting. Mr. Pack asked Rudy Raynes (Fire Marshal) if he could obtain shipping labels for all fire departments, we will try to have them shipped directly to them.

Plan Reviews - Kim Hallam has two LEPC=s submitting plans. Cabell/Wayne is submitting an update and Ritchie County has submitted their 1<sup>st</sup> plan ever. Mr. Pack said that is significant progress for Ritchie County. Both counties meet all 9 required criteria. Joe Wyatt moved to accept the plans as submitted, Rick Atkinson seconded. Motion passed.

LEPC Membership Approvals - Shirley Lawson asked for clarification of the attached membership lists. It was explained the lists submitted at each SERC meeting are usually updates to current lists already on file with the SERC or in the case of LEPC=s becoming active initial lists submitted to the SERC for approval. Ms. Lawson said there were two errors in Cabell/Wayne=s list and one mistake was found in Raleigh County=s list. Rick Atkinson moved to approve all lists with the corrections for Cabell/Wayne and Raleigh, Joe Wyatt seconded. Motion approved.

By-Laws - none

Training Subcommittee - Jim Cox said there is nothing additional to report.

New Business - Mr. Pack said recently Dave, Tom, Laverne and he had begun discussing the SERC/LEPC Conference. Several issues were discussed, utilizing state parks, date of the conference, demonstrations and effective classes for LEPC=s. Mr. Pack said the dates we could get with Canaan Valley (one of two parks capable of handling the number of attendees we have) are June 19-21. Mr. Pack said he knows the 20<sup>th</sup> is a state holiday but

due to the parks constraints and our schedules that seems to be the best dates available. Mr. Pack has negotiated a special rate for the conference and attendees will be able to bring family members at no additional charge. The rate has been extended to a few days ahead or several days after the conference for those wishing to extend their stay. At present a family event will be scheduled for Tuesday evening and if the SERC has additional ideas on training or classes please let us know. The schedule of events is still flexible. Mr. Pack gave a summary of possible classes/ events; Terrorism, Weapons of Mass Destruction, SERC meeting, DuPont Hazmat truck, Class III Hazmat suits and Wetzel County Mobile Command Center. Mr. Pack said due to time constraints he has already scheduled with Canaan Valley, he was not trying to circumvent the Board but Canaan had to be scheduled immediately to obtain optimum dates. Rick Atkinson made a motion to move the SERC/LEPC Conference from September to June 19-21, 2000. Jim Riggs seconded Motioned approved.

Mr. Pack said the next item of new business is everyone aware there are permanent agencies on the SERC and three categories that rotate on two year appointments? It so happens those three people on two year appointments were up in June 1999. Those three categories are fire representative, chemical representative and citizen with emergency management experience. The Governors Office is waiting for the SERC to make recommendations, if we do not they have lists of individuals willing to serve on committees. Mr. Pack asked Mike Agee if he wished to remain on the Board and Mr. Agee replied yes unless Mr. Pack had someone else in mind. Mr. Pack said no he would be happy to have Mr. Agee stay on the board but he needs to send a complete resume into the Governors Office. Mr. Pack said Mr. Jarvis and his family have had some medical problems and has not been able to attend meetings recently. Mr. Pack felt Board members needed to consider nominating someone else for that position. Mr. Pack also said Mr. McGann's appointment is also up and although Mr. McGann has served with distinction and provided invaluable service to the Board, Mr. Pack thought the Board might consider nominating someone else. Mr. Pack said more LEPC=s need to become active in the process. Rick Atkinson recommended CW Sigman, South Charleston FD and Rudy Raynes recommended Steve Hardman, Nitro FD. Mr. Pack said both individuals need to be contacted to confirm their willingness to serve and they will need to submit resumes to the Governors Office for a determination. Roy McCallister suggested Shirley Lawson consider serving on the Board. Ms. Lawson said she would think about it, she already serves on a number of committees and is not sure if she would have the time but she would let us know. If anyone has additional recommendations/nominations please contact Mr. Pack by February 1, 2000.

Mr. Pack said he would like to set up a sub-committee to review finished products from prior HMEP Grants. Recommendations from the committee will be given to the SERC on unacceptable vendors, recommended vendors, and finished products. Mr. Pack suggested three individuals who have not sat in on the selection committee, so there

would not be any preconceived assumptions about the finished products. Mr. Pack asked Rudy Raynes, Mike Agee and Joe Wyatt to serve on this committee and make recommendations to the SERC. Jim Riggs moved to adjourn, Rick Atkinson seconded.

Scheduled date for next meeting March 17, 2000 at 10:00 a.m.